



Learn Before You Burn

Avoid up
to \$10,000
in fines.

One of the most common air quality violations in eastern Washington is illegal outdoor burning. The rules for outdoor burning vary by where you live in the county. For instance:

- If you live in Moses Lakes, or its Urban Growth Area (UGA) you cannot conduct residential or land clearing burning now.
- Other cities and towns in Grant County will likely see residential burning banned in 2007.
- If you live in rural Grant County you may burn natural vegetation in a small pile in your yard (see rules included in this brochure)

It pays to know the rules before you burn. Individuals who burn illegally may be fined up to \$10,000 per day, per violation.

Resources and Contacts

Washington Agricultural Burn Hotline 1-800-406-5322

Grant County Public Works (509) 754-4319

Grant County Conservation District (509) 754-2463 ext. 5

Fire Districts

Coulee City (509) 623-5331 Electric City (509) 633-1510

Ephrata (509) 754-4973 Grand Coulee (509) 633-1370

Hartline (509) 639-2534 Krupp/Marlin (509) 345-0415

Moses Lake (509) 765-2291 Quincy (509) 787-0956

Soap Lake (509) 246-0463



For more information about outdoor burning in Grant County, please contact the Washington Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office.
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 329-3400
Toll-free Air Quality and Smoke Complaint Line:
1-866-211-6284
www.ecy.wa.gov

If you need this document in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6830. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY.

Outdoor Burning in Grant County

A Resident's Guide

Publication No. 05-02-016G



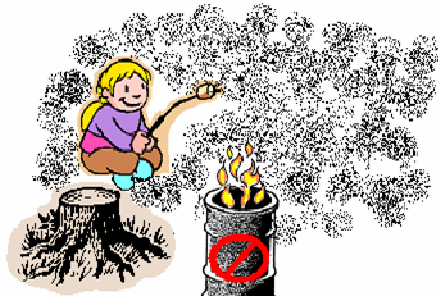


Prohibited Materials and Burn Barrels

Burning household waste and other garbage is prohibited . **Only unprocessed natural vegetation is legal to burn in Washington State.**

Burning anything in a burn barrel is illegal. Even natural vegetation may not be burned in a burn barrel. Burning in a barrel limits the amount of oxygen that can get to a fire. This results in lower burn temperatures, incomplete combustion, excessive smoke, and more toxic substances being released into the air. The smoke from a burn barrel stays close to the ground, making it more difficult for people to avoid breathing it.

Did you know that smoke from burn barrels can aggravate your child’s asthma?



Burn Bans

Contact your local fire department or the Department of Ecology before starting any fires. Occasionally, a burn ban is issued due to impaired air quality or extreme fire danger. Various entities may issue a burn ban, including Ecology, the Governor, the County Fire Marshall, and Fire Districts. On the day you are planning to burn, call the Agricultural Burn Hotline at 1-800-406-5322 to find out if the weather is forecasted to be good for burning in your area.

Let’s Keep It Clean!

We take pride in our quality of life in the Inland Northwest. Thus, we all want to keep our air clean and healthful. In fact, the air we breathe today is cleaner and healthier than it has been in decades. Improvements in air quality are the result of a variety of actions, including the implementation of the 1991 Washington State Clean Air Act.

Outdoor burning across the state is limited to unprocessed natural vegetation only. This brochure details the outdoor burning programs in Grant County, alternatives to burning, and the health effects associated with burning. The Washington Department of Ecology encourages you to find ways to preserve healthful air quality. One good place to start is to know the outdoor burning rules and to always choose healthier and safer alternatives to burning.

Why Shouldn’t I Burn?

When burned, even unprocessed natural vegetation, such as lawn clippings, leaves, and pine needles, produce **air pollutants** such as **carbon monoxide** and **fine particulate material**. The small particles in fine particulate matter are easily inhaled into the lungs and can have serious impacts on human health. Those at greatest risk are also the most vulnerable citizens in our communities: the very young, the elderly, and those suffering from chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis.

Alternatives to Burning Yard Debris

- Compost yard waste yourself.
- Haul the yard waste to your nearest recycling/transfer station.
- Call (509) 754-4319 for recycling/transfer station information
- Design a landscape that allows debris to remain in place. Feature native trees and plants.
- Dispose of large yard debris by chipping. Encourage your community to invest in a community chipper. Rent a chipper alone or with your neighbors.

What Types of Burning are Allowed?

- Residential and land clearing burning are not allowed in Moses Lake.**
 - In 2007, this burn ban will be extended to most cities and towns.**
- Residential Burning** is outdoor burning of leaves, clippings, prunings, and other yard and gardening refuse originating on the improved area of residential property and burned by the property owner or other responsible person. One 4’ x4’ x3” pile of natural vegetation may be burned at least fifty feet from structures, as long as smoke does not impact your neighbors. You must be in attendance and capable of putting the fire out while it is actively burning and/or smoking.
- Land clearing burning** is outdoor burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery, or other natural vegetation so that the land surface can be developed or used for a different purpose. A resident may qualify for a land clearing permit if they are clearing one acre or less of land on a parcel that is five or more acres.
- Agricultural burning** is allowed by permit. An agricultural operation may burn vegetative debris for disease or pest control, or where identified as a best management practice. A permit is required to burn orchard trees, open fields, and harvest debris. Permits are not required for burning fence rows, ditch banks, windblown tumbleweeds, and annual orchard pruning. For information about agricultural burning, contact your local Conservation District or the Washington Department of Ecology’s Eastern Regional Office at (509) 456-2926.
- Recreational fires** include campfires, backyard barbecues, and chimeneas. Recreational fires are allowed year-round. Only approved fuel should be used. This includes untreated, bare, seasoned (clean and dry) firewood, briquettes, or propane. Fires must be no more than **three feet in diameter** and must be attended at all times. **Disposal of vegetative waste in a recreational fire is prohibited.**

